

RAB Minutes

NAS North Island

Restoration Advisory Board

CTO-057

Subject: RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 17, 1996

The twenty-second Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting for Naval Air Station (NAS) North Island was held on Wednesday, January 17, 1996 in the Winn Room at the Coronado Public Library from 6:30 p.m. to 8:40 p.m.

Ms. Dottie Marron, Community Co-Chair for the NAS North Island RAB, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Marron began the meeting with a brief outline of the evening's key topics: election of a new RAB community Co-chair; an update on the status of the Installation Restoration (IR) Site 9 RI/FS report; an update on the expanded sampling at Site 9; a discussion of the comments on the Sites 9 and 11 Non-Time-Critical Removal Action (NTCRA) Work Plan; a presentation on the Fiscal Years 96-98 Defense Environmental Restoration Account (DERA) Budget; a status report on the IR Sites 4, 6, and 10 polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) Removal Action; and an update on the status of the IR Site 2 landfill cut removal action.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from the December 14, 1995 RAB Meeting

- The December 14, 1995 RAB meeting minutes were accepted and approved.

Election of a new RAB Community Co-Chair

- Ms. Marron invited all RAB members interested in serving as RAB community Co-chair to voice their interest: Mr. John Machol and Ms. Marron both expressed interest.
- After Ms. Marron and Mr. Machol presented their qualifications and answered questions from fellow RAB members, a vote was taken. Ms. Marron was re-elected as RAB community Co-chair.

Update on the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) at Site 9

Mr. Bill Collins, NAS North Island Team Leader for the Naval Facilities Engineering Command,

Southwest Division (SWDIV), provided a brief update on the RI/FS at the Chemical Waste Disposal Area (Site 9).

- Mr. Collins stated that the contractor working on the RI/FS is in the process of preparing the Corrective Measures Study/Feasibility Study (CMS/FS) for Site 9. The CMS/FS documentation will accompany the documentation associated with the investigation of the site. Mr. Collins noted that the purpose of the FS is to evaluate the work proposed for the site in accordance with several parameters including, public acceptance, implementability, and the short- and long-term effects of the project. It is expected that the CMS/FS will be available for public review in March 1996.
- Mr. Collins added that the California Environmental Protection Agency's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has asked for an extension of the deadline for receipt of comments on the Remedial Investigation report for the site. An extension will be granted until February 8, 1996, so that the new DTSC representative, Rafat Abbasi (and all other reviewers), can adequately review the report.
- In response to the discussion concerning the new DTSC representative, RAB member Ms. Laura Hunter suggested that the RAB compose a letter to representatives of both DTSC and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) requesting the presence of representatives of both agencies at future RAB meetings. The RAB decided that Ms. Marron will write a letter to both agencies.
- Ms. Marron provided her comments on page 1 of Part 7 in Volume 1 of the report that indicates that there are no buildings on Site 9. She expressed concern regarding the boundaries of the site as they are stated in the report; the report states that the boundaries of Site 9 do not include Buildings 743 and 744. Ms. Marron was concerned that because the site boundaries do not include the two buildings, they will not be remediated, although sampling has shown that contamination exists below them. Mr. Collins stated that if contamination is in fact present underneath the two buildings, they will be cleaned up as well. He also stated that the Navy would not halt a cleanup at the boundary of a site if contamination is present outside those boundaries.

Presentation on the Expanded Sampling at Site 9

Mr. Collins gave a brief presentation on the expanded sampling at the Chemical Waste Disposal Area (Site 9).

- Mr. Collins reminded those present of the sampling conducted at the site that involved placing samplers into bay sediment. The samplers, placed into the sediment to sample for possible contamination entering the bay from Site 9,

detected some groundwater discharge. In response to the new findings, a barge will be brought out to the shoreline of the site on January 20 - 21 to conduct vibra-core sediment sampling. The results of the samples will be analyzed and a determination of future action needed at the site will be made.

- Mr. Collins stated that if the results of the groundwater pilot study are positive, the Navy would like to actually implement the methods outlined in the study at Site 9. (The pilot study will test a potential method for conducting groundwater removal actions. The test was described at the December 14, 1995 RAB meeting.)
- RAB member Mr. Richard Dittbenner asked Mr. Collins for additional information on both the model used for the pilot study and the underpinning assumptions made for the project. Mr. Collins explained that the process is an in-well air stripping technology for removing volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Mr. Collins added that he will look into getting additional theoretical information from EG & G on the underpinnings of the model used in the pilot study.

Presentation of Comments on the Sites 9 and 11 NTCRA Work Plan

Mr. Richard Mach, Remedial Project Manager (RPM) with SWDIV, provided an overview of the comments received on the Chemical Waste Disposal Area (Site 9) and Industrial Waste Treatment Plant (Site 11) NTCRA Work Plan. Comments on the Work Plan were due January 16, 1996.

- Mr. Mach stated that the new representative at DTSC has asked for, and received, an extension on the comment period until January 29, 1996.
- Mr. Mach received comments from the San Diego Municipal Sewer District. The district asked that the Navy assure that all water discharged into the sewer meets the requirements of the industrial waste treatment permit for NAS North Island. Mr. Mach noted that the water is already well below the requirements of the permit.
- Mr. Mach also received comments from SAIC, a contractor conducting work at Site 11, and had his own comments.
- Several meetings have been held regarding the NTCRA for Sites 9 and 11. Mr. Charles Cheng, Project Manager with the RWQCB, agreed with the work planned for Site 9 except for the use of horizontal extraction wells and vertical injection wells in the shallow vadose zone at Site 9. Mr. Cheng's concerns were echoed by DTSC. Mr. Cheng was concerned that this combination of wells would cause short circuiting. In response to Mr. Cheng's concern, the configuration of the wells has been changed. Totally screened horizontal wells will be used in conjunction with the vertical injection wells at different depth layers. The manifolding around the horizontal wells will also be changed so that the

horizontal wells can be used for injection or extraction.

- Mr. Mach noted that DTSC's California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation associated with the NTCRA will be sent out for public and regulatory review this week.
- Mr. Mach stated that the California Department of Fish and Game reviewed the NTCRA Work Plan. The Department agrees with the method proposed for the protection of the sensitive plants at Site 9, but is concerned about the safety of the burrowing owl. The Navy has created a mitigation plan in response to the Department's concern. The mitigation plan proposes that the holes that burrowing owls formerly used be covered over because they are not currently in use as nesting holes. The plan also calls for building a mitigation nesting area in Imperial Beach for the owls. The proposed area in Imperial Beach is large and near a wildlife refuge.
- Mr. Mach stated that if a survey of Imperial Beach shows that no pocket mice are present in the proposed area, a new owl habitat will be developed in Imperial Beach. The owls will not be moved to Imperial Beach until all pocket mice have been removed from the site.
- Mr. Doug Chen, Project Manager with OHM Remediation Services, added that Site 9 is an alternate California least tern site that the Navy would eventually like to turn into a least tern habitat. Mr. Chen also added that there are burrowing owl nests on the site that could be effected by the noise from the construction planned for the site. Based on the concern over the owls and other sensitive species, it was agreed to have the NAS North Island biologist attend the February 22 RAB meeting to discuss these natural resources issues.

Presentation on the Fiscal Year 96-98 DERA Budget

Mr. Collins provided an overview of the Fiscal Years (FY) 1996-1998 DERA Budget. Mr. Collins discussed projects that are currently underway and projects that the Navy would like to implement from 1996 to 1998.

- Mr. Collins noted that NAS North Island's current budget is short due to Congress' ongoing budget problems. NAS North Island has received \$130,000 of the \$20 million that was released by the Navy. NAS North Island plans to implement two of the smaller jobs on the list for FY96. Additional funding is expected within the next few weeks. It is also expected that by FY97, all of the proposed programs for FY96 will be in operation.
- Mr. Collins reviewed the budgets for each fiscal year. The budget for 1996 is approximately \$7.5-\$8 million (NAS North Island originally requested an additional \$7-\$8 million), the 1997 budget calls for directing more money to cleanups (rather than the studying of sites), and the 1997 and 1998 budgets

represent NAS North Island's desired projects. Mr. Collins said that Congress would like about 60 percent of the FY 98-99 DERA budget used for cleanups, but NAS North Island is aiming for 70 percent. Currently, NAS North Island directs 50-60% of its budget to cleanup.

- In response to RAB member Ms. Laura Hunter's question concerning the potential need for a removal action at the San Diego Bay, Mr. Collins stated that he will add further funding to the budget for the potential removal.

Update on the Sites 4, 6, and 10 PCB Removal Action

Mr. Mach gave an update on the PCB removal action underway at the Public Works Salvage Yard (Site 4), the Seaview Heritage Park Public Works Salvage Yard (Site 6), and the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (Site 10).

- Mr. Mach began his presentation with a review of the history of the PCB removal action at the three sites. He reminded those present that the soil from the three sites would be excavated and brought to Site 4 for treatment in one central unit.
- Mr. Mach summarized the status of each of the sites. Site 10 has been completely backfilled and was turned over to the DRMO and Naval Aviation Depot for their use. Site 6 has been re-seeded and all PCBs have been removed from the site. Site 6 will be closed out and labeled as a "no further action" site. A fence surrounding the site is still up in response to a safety issue at the site (a concrete vault in the middle of the site will be broken up, dropped into a hole, and backfilled with soil). Seventy-nine (79) percent of the soil contaminated with PCBs at Site 4 has been treated; 2000 cubic yards of soil remain to be treated. In response to the additional soil to be treated, the project will be extended about four months.
- Mr. Mach stated that several delays have affected the project, including the initial problems associated with the use of the innovative technology, Terra-Kleen; however, those initial bugs have been worked out and the project is progressing smoothly. Mr. Mach stated that the Navy is investigating alternative methods for onsite treatment of the carbon units. One alternative method is the onsite regeneration of the carbon. If the alternative treatments are not feasible, the Navy will haul the material offsite.
- Ms. Hunter requested that the Navy investigate whether incinerators are any more effective destroying PCBs based on the media on which they are attached. The Navy will investigate this and provide a response.
- It is expected that all of the soil will be completely treated by September 1996. A final report will follow the completion of the soil treatment.

Status Report on the Site 2 Landfill Cut Removal Action

Ms. Kim Wheeler, RPM with SWDIV, provided a status report on the Old Spanish Bight Landfill (Site 2) cut removal action.

- Ms. Wheeler reviewed the purpose of the removal action at the landfill cut of Site 2. The landfill cut has exposed incinerator ash from an incinerator that operated in the 1930's and 1940's. The risk drivers for this removal action were heavy metals, arsenic, and lead. The Navy was concerned because the arsenic and lead could be carried off site by wind or storm water into the bay.
- Ms. Wheeler stated that the planning and documentation required for the removal action is complete. The work plan has been approved and is being implemented at the site.
- Mr. Chen stated that the Navy Public Works Center actually started the Site 2 project by removing a clog in a section of the storm drain pipe that was creating drainage problems. Excavation of the landfill cut began after the pipe was cleaned; backfilling and compaction is scheduled for Friday, January 19, 1996 and Saturday, January 20, 1996.
- Mr. Chen stated that a retaining wall has been installed to make a section of the existing wall more stable and to increase the volume of the soil that is put into the landfill. All of the soil excavated from the landfill cut will be placed back into the landfill; a clay cap and a layer of topsoil will be installed over the landfill cap after the completion of the backfilling and compaction. The project is scheduled to be complete by the end of January 1996. A Draft Closeout Report should be available by the end of February 1996.
- Mr. Chen added that the impact on traffic in Coronado will be very minimal. Traffic has been limited to four commercial truckloads for moving heavy equipment on-site, and two loads of construction material coming to the site. Four truckloads of heavy equipment will be leaving the site in support of the demobilization effort.

General and Closing Questions and Answers/Comments

- A NAS North Island site tour has been scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 16, 1996. More information will follow at the February 22, 1996 RAB meeting.
- Mr. Bernardo, RAB Navy Co-Chair, provided information regarding Technical Assistance Grants (TAGs). He reviewed the history of the TAG process and stated that the Department of Defense is expected to make a decision concerning TAG regulations in September 1996. Mr. Bernardo added that Congress is

requiring RABs to exhaust the resources available to them through the installations, agencies, contractors and at the federal and local government levels before consideration for TAGs will be granted.

- Mr. Bernardo briefly discussed the Technical Outreach Services to Communities (TOSC) program that is an alternative to TAGs available to non-National Priorities List (NPL) sites. Ms. Marron stated that she would investigate TOSCs.
- Ms. Hunter announced that a group of community members are making an effort to form a caucus to discuss various issues related to the RAB. The group would like representation from San Diego and Ms Hunter asked for participation from the NAS North Island RAB. The next meeting of the California RAB Community Members Caucus is today.
- Ms. Hunter also announced that the Environmental Health Coalition (EHC) is sponsoring a seminar on Friday, January 19, 1996. The title of the seminar is "Money and Politics Problems". Call Ms. Hunter's office for further information.
- RAB member Mr. George Cooksey inquired about the financial status of the RAB in relation to Bechtel National Inc.'s (BNI) contract. Mr. Mach described the financial future of the RAB and explained that the Navy will continue to support the RAB after BNI's contract expires in March 1996.
- Mr. Collins informed those present that he received a telephone call from a Navy representative, Mr. Scott Thomas, regarding RAB success stories. Mr. Collins said that he discussed both the importance of the RABs and specific success stories that the NAS North Island RAB has had throughout the past year and one half.
- The next RAB meeting will be held on February 22, 1996 in the Coronado Unified School District's Board Room (555 D Avenue, at Palm) from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Agenda topics will include: a slide show illustrating the Removal Action at Site 2; a report on modeling at the Chemical Waste Disposal Area (Site 9); a presentation on the NAS North Island burrowing owls relocation plan; a discussion of the regulators' responses to RAB letter sent by the Community Co-chair; a discussion of the status of the Technical Outreach Services to Communities; an announcement of the March 16, 1996 site tour; an announcement of a community workshop for NAS North Island; and a discussion of the hazardous waste treatment facility permit renewal.
- Following are the dates of upcoming NAS North Island RAB meetings (All meetings, excluding the February 22 meeting will be held in the Winn Room at the Coronado Public Library):

Wednesday, March 27, 1996

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Wednesday, May 22, 1996

Wednesday, June 26, 1996

Ms. Marron adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.